

MISSOURI DEAFBLIND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT
Professional Training Course:
HAND IN HAND: 2011-2012
UNDERSTANDING DEAFBLINDNESS FOR EDUCATION TEAMS OF
STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND

Dates, Location, Time:

The course combines self-studies, homework assignments, and action planning with on-site follow-up mentoring support, and three face-to-face sessions with course instructors. The dates/location/times of the face-to-face sessions are:

Dates: **Session 1, Wednesday through Friday, October 26 – 28, 2011**
 Session 2, Wednesday & Thursday, January 25 – 26, 2012
 Session 3, Wednesday & Thursday, April 18 – 19, 2012

Location: **Cape Girardeau School District**
 301 N. Clark St.
 Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701

Times: **Wednesday (October 26th, only): 9:00 am - 4:30 pm**
 Wednesdays: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Thursdays: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Lodging: See attached nearby hotels. We do not endorse any particular site.

Target Audience:

The target audience is an educational team of a student with deafblindness (that is, the student's parent(s), teacher, classroom paraprofessional, therapists, etc). As many members of a student's team as possible - *particularly parents* - are encouraged to participate in the course. Minimum number of participants on a team is two. At least one member must be the student's teacher.

Individual teachers serving students with deafblindness may register and, if room permits, will be accepted; however, preference will be given to teams. Individual teachers wishing to participate in the course should call Susan Bonner, Course Coordinator at: (314) 776-4320 x 3255.

NOTES:

- *Since the course is designed to have direct application to students with deafblindness, all teams/participants must be currently serving a student with*

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deafblindness (ages 3 through 21 who has an IEP).

- *Registration is limited to 8 teams.*

Instructors:

Co-Instructor: Janus Hinson, MEd, SLP, Transition Specialist, Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project; Kansas City, Missouri

Co-Instructor: Andrea Harrington, SLP, Education Specialist, Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project; Kansas City, Missouri

Co-Instructor: Mandy Deimund, MA, COMS/TVI; Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Co-Instructor: Pam Shatto, MA, Speech Therapist; Kansas City, Missouri

Co-Instructor: Susan Bonner, MEd; Deafblind Project Coordinator; Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project, St. Louis, Missouri

Course structure:

This professional course uses a combination of self-studies, homework assignments, and action planning with follow-up onsite mentoring, and face-to-face sessions with instructors and other course participants. The course is arranged and sequenced in the following manner:

1. *Registration:* Once each team has decided to attend the course, it will need to complete and return the forms attached to this announcement: the *Team Registration Form* and a release of information signed by its student's parent(s)/guardians(s) (please see **Release of Information** below).

Please note: **Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 12, 2011**

Once each team is registered, the Missouri Deafblind Project will send each team a confirmation letter with more information regarding the course.

2. *First session:* All teams will meet with the course instructors for the first session at Cape Girardeau Schools Administrative Office, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. At that time, teams will be given one complementary set of the course's text: *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies*. Through lecture and hands-on activities, the participants will learn about the dynamics of deafblindness. The three-day session will end with each team developing an Action Plan for how the knowledge acquired up to this point will be utilized with each team's student. As part of the action planning process, each team will be assigned a mentor (one of the Hand In Hand instructors) who will meet with the team monthly (face-to-face/onsite, by phone, etc., depending on the needs of the team). This monthly mentoring will support the teams in the implementation of their action plans and in the application of the knowledge they acquire about deafblindness to their students. Finally, the first of three assignments will be given to the participating teams.

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3. *Reading of text, implementation of action plans, and mentoring activities:* During the next 12 weeks, each team will review the relevant chapters in the course text; work on the implementation of the action plan it developed at the 1st session; complete Assignment 1; and receive support from its assigned mentor. Finally, just before returning for the second onsite, face-to-face session in January, each team writes a short report on the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan the team developed during the October session.
4. *Second session:* On Wednesday and Thursday, January 25 – 26, 2012 (2 days), all teams will return to Cape Girardeau School District for a second session with the instructors. At that time, the participants will learn about communication and the role it plays in the education of students with deafblindness. They will also become acquainted with some tools used to assess the communication needs of students with deafblindness. This two-day session will end with each team developing an Action Plan for how the knowledge acquired up to this point will be applied to the student it serves. In addition, the instructors will distribute the second course assignment.
5. *Reading of text, implementation of action plans, and mentoring activities:* During the next 12 weeks, each team will review the relevant chapters in the course text; work on the implementation of the action plan it developed at the January session; complete Assignment 2 (i.e., assess the communication needs of its student); and receive support from its assigned mentor. Finally, just before returning for the third onsite, face-to-face session in April, each team writes a short report on the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan the team developed during the January session.
6. *Third (and final) session:* On Wednesday and Thursday, April 18 – 19, 2012 (2 days), all teams return to Cape Girardeau, Missouri for the third (and final) session. At that time, the participants will learn additional assessment strategies as well as learn how to apply the knowledge and skills gleaned during the course with the student each team serves. The final course assignment will be distributed. This session will end with each team developing an Action Plan for how knowledge acquired during the *Hand In Hand* course will be utilized with its student.

Learning objectives:

The teams will learn:

- essential information about vision and hearing impairments and how these impairments can affect students with deafblindness;
- the interrelationship of communication and movement;
- the basic nature of communication and how students develop the ability to communicate;

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- how communication development is affected by deafblindness;
- the importance of assisting students with deafblindness to develop lifelong communication skills for full community participation;
- how a student's knowledge of body concepts and the environment can be affected by deafblindness; and,
- the importance of teaching students with deafblindness to become aware of their surroundings and to move or be guided purposefully and safely.

Course fees and costs:

There is no registration fee for the course. The course is sponsored by the Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project, Outreach Services, Missouri School for the Blind, St. Louis, Missouri.

In addition, the Missouri Deafblind Project will provide each team with *one* (1) set of the course's text, *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies* at no cost to the teams.

Team members - *with the exceptions of parents* - are responsible for their own travel costs, meals, and housing (if needed). The Missouri Deafblind Project will reimburse parents for mileage, hotel, and meals. Please see **Housing and Transportation**, below.

Ordering additional copies of *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies*:

The Missouri Deafblind Project will provide each team with *one set* of *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies*. **Upon completion of the course, the books become the property of the school district.** At any time, a team withdraws from the course, all books and resources must be returned to the Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project. Teams wanting additional sets will need to purchase them directly from Hope Publishing, Inc.

To order, request the following: *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies* (Catalogue number: 101)

The cost per set is *approximately \$175.00 plus shipping*.

For more information and to order:

Hope Publishing
1856 North 1200 East
North Logan, UT 84341
(435) 245-2888
hope@hopepubl.com

Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies can be ordered on-line at Hope's website: www.hopepubl.com

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies* is *not* available in Braille, Large Print, Talking Book, *nor* ASCII formats!

Course Credit (Optional):

Two graduate credits for the *Hand In Hand* course are available through Lindenwood University. The cost for the two graduate credits is \$120 and is payable to Lindenwood University. Team members wishing to take this course for the credit can register during the April session. The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project will *not* reimburse participants for this fee.

Meals:

With the exception of lunch Wednesday, October 26, 2012, participants will be responsible for all other meals during the three on-site sessions. The Wednesday lunch is part of the course training. A list of local restaurants will be available at the October session.

Housing and Transportation - Non-parents:

A list of nearby hotels is attached. Ask for the government rate to reserve rooms. The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project does not endorse any particular hotel. The Missouri Deafblind has not made any agreements to hold rooms to attend this course.

Housing, Transportation, and Meals – Parents/Family Members:

Parents/family members are also invited to attend. The Missouri Deafblind Project will reimburse parents/family members for the cost of their room selected from the sample list (that is, *only* government rate plus taxes). All additional charges to the room (such as in-room movies) will not be reimbursed. Receipts for the room are required for reimbursement.

The Project will *not* reimburse parents/family members for lodging at any other public/private facilities.

Parents/family members will be responsible for making their own reservations.

Parents will be reimbursed the current allowable state rate per mile (between their homes and Cape Girardeau Schools District).

The Deafblind Project will also reimburse parents for meals at the following rates:

Breakfast: \$5.00 maximum

Lunch: \$9.00 maximum

Dinner: \$16.00 maximum

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NOTE: *Receipts for all meals and lodging are required.*

Course Accessibility:

Requests for special supports (interpreters, Braille, large print, etc.) must be indicated on each team's Registration Form.

Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies is *not* available in any other media than print. However, overheads, handouts, and other materials will be transcribed or enlarged. The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project will *not* be able to provide *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies* in talking book, Braille or any other format.

The Cape Girardeau School District is accessible for participants with orthopedic impairments.

Oral and/or sign interpreters will be secured, if needed. Participants wishing to bring their own personal interpreters may do so. The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project will *not* pay for personal interpreters brought by participants. Only interpreters secured by the Project will be paid for by the Project.

Any other special supports requested need to be clearly described on the *Team Registration Form*.

The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project cannot guarantee to meet requests for special supports made after the **Wednesday, October 12, 2011** registration deadline.

Release of Information:

Each team must secure a signed release of information from their student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) giving permission for the following:

- Sharing information and discussing the student during each of the three sessions, in assignments (when appropriate), and in developing and reporting back on action plans, and, for the
- Monthly mentoring to the team by a Hand In Hand instructor/mentor.

For More Information:

Contact the *Hand in Hand* Course Coordinator: Susan Bonner at: **(314) 776-4320 ext. 3255**

Enclosures:

Team Registration form
Release of Information form